GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1440
ANSWERED ON:29.10.2008
DECREASING FOREST COVER IN NER
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether forest area in the North-Eastern Region has reduced considerably due to felling of trees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Forest Commissioner has submitted its report to the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of the findings and the recommendations thereon; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) & (b): As compared to the 2003 assessment, a loss of 278 km2 of forest cover has been observed in the North-Eastern Region during the 2005 assessment by Forest Survey of India.State-wise forest cover in the Region,along with the changes as compared to the previous assessment is shown in the Table below:

Forest cover in the North-Eastern States

(Area in km2)

State/UT Geographic Area	Forest Cover(2005 Assessment) Very Dense Forest	Moderately Dense Forest	Open Forest	Total Forest	Percen of G.A.	Change as compared to 2003 Assessment
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	14,411	37,977	15,389 67,777	80.93	85
Assam	78,438	1,444	11,387	14,814 27,645	35.24	-90
Manipur	22,327	923	5,541	10,622 17,086	76.53	-173
Meghalaya	22,429	338	6,808	9,842 16,988	75.74	63
Mizoram	21,081	133	6,173	12,378 18,684	88.63	101
Nagaland	16,579	236	5,602	7,881 13,719	82.75	-296

Tripura 10,486 61 4,969 3,125 8,155 77.77 32

Total 255.083 17,546 78,457 74,051 170,054 66.67 -278

The main reasons for the loss are shifting cultivation, flowering of bamboo and illicit felling of trees in some parts of the Region.

(c): Yes, Sir. The National Forest Commission submitted its report to the Government in 2006.

(d): The details of the recommendations on the chapter 'Forests of the North East' are given in Annexure.A complete copy of the Report is available on the Website of the Ministry (www.envfor.nic.in).

(e): The Report of the National Forest Commission was further examined from the angle of administrative feasibility, financial feasibility, legal feasibility and technical feasibility. Thereafter, Cabinet Secretariat was requested to take up recommendations of the National Forest Commission with various Union Ministries for necessary action.Meanwhile,this Ministry is taking measures, through the schemes run by this Ministry as well as through Policy interventions,to effect implementation of the recommendations of the Commission.